



*News From*

# **Maggie Brooks**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**

Wednesday, March 23, 2004

### **COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR FAST FERRY CREW**

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced that the U.S. Coast Guard has selected and approved the use of the Monroe County Public Safety Training Facility (PSTF) to train the 100-member Fast Ferry crew.

The new high-speed Fast Ferry is scheduled to begin travel between Rochester and Toronto May 1. The 100-member crew of the ferry is required by U.S. Coast Guard regulations to be certified and trained in safety, first aid, and fire fighting and prevention.

"The selection of the Monroe County Public Safety Training Facility as the site for training of the Fast Ferry crew is another exciting opportunity for Monroe County and further evidence of the quality resources and services provided by the public safety facility," said Brooks. "I am very pleased that the crew members aboard the fast ferry will be coming to Rochester and Monroe County to train and be certified. The PSTF is a first-class site with first-class instructors and is the best place to train the Fast Ferry crew to ensure every journey aboard the ferry is safe and secure."

Several weeks ago, CATS, the company that owns the Fast Ferry, contacted Monroe County to inquire about the possibility of conducting their training exercises in Rochester. The certified training program has specific, strict guidelines and requirements. The Fast Ferry crew can only be trained at U.S. Coast Guard-approved facilities and by U.S. Coast Guard-approved instructors. After an inspection by the Coast Guard, the County Public Safety Training Facility was approved.

Ed Riley, Monroe County Fire Coordinator said, "The Public Safety Training Facility was chosen in part because it is easily adaptable and meets all the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard seemed especially impressed that we were able to provide all these resources locally. Before evaluating the PSTF, they thought the crew might need to train in Detroit. Our first responders have been coordinating emergency procedures with CATS and so it is great that we will now have the opportunity to interact with the Fast Ferry crew as they undergo training here."

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The Fast Ferry crew will participate in a nine-day training session beginning on March 23 and ending March 31. The California Maritime Academy was contracted by CATS to lead the training. Several PSTF instructors will assist in the courses, which are as follows:

- 1) Personnel Safety and Social Responsibility;
- 2) Personal Survival Techniques;
- 3) Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting;
- 4) First Aid.

The training is a combination of lectures and hands-on exercises. There will be live fire training on the outside training grounds and pool sessions on personal survival at the MCC campus.

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*For further information, call:  
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